

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4810

To require that 50 percent of the amounts provided under certain grants provided by the Department of Homeland Security for first responders shall be distributed directly to local entities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2004

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require that 50 percent of the amounts provided under certain grants provided by the Department of Homeland Security for first responders shall be distributed directly to local entities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Direct Funding for
5 First Responders Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISTRIBUTION OF 50 PERCENT OF GRANT FUNDS**
2 **TO LOCAL ENTITIES.**

3 (a) DIRECT DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL ENTITIES.—
4 Fifty percent of the amounts provided under a grant to
5 which this section applies shall be distributed directly to
6 local entities (including local governments and first re-
7 sponders).

8 (b) ALLOCATION.—The funds distributed directly to
9 local entities under subsection (a) shall be allocated among
10 and by such entities in the manner proposed in the ap-
11 proved application for the grant.

12 **SEC. 3. COVERED GRANTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 applies to any grant
14 provided by the Department of Homeland Security to
15 States or regions to improve the ability of first responders
16 to prevent, prepare for, respond to, or mitigate threatened
17 or actual terrorist attacks, especially those involving weap-
18 ons of mass destruction, and including any grant under
19 the following:

20 (1) STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PRO-
21 GRAM.—The State Homeland Security Grant Pro-
22 gram of the Department, or any successor to such
23 grant program.

24 (2) URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE.—The
25 Urban Area Security Initiative of the Department,
26 or any successor to such grant program.

1 (b) EXCLUDED PROGRAMS.—Section 2 does not
2 apply to or otherwise affect the following Federal grant
3 programs or any grant under such a program:

4 (1) NONDEPARTMENT PROGRAMS.—Any Fed-
5 eral grant program that is not administered by the
6 Department of Homeland Security.

7 (2) FIRE GRANT PROGRAMS.—The fire grant
8 programs authorized by sections 33 and 34 of the
9 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
10 (15 U.S.C. 2229, 2229a).

11 (3) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND
12 ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT GRANTS.—The Emergency
13 Management Performance Grant program and the
14 Urban Search and Rescue Grants program author-
15 ized by title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
16 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
17 5195 et seq.); the Departments of Veterans Affairs
18 and Housing and Urban Development, and Inde-
19 pendent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (113
20 Stat. 1047 et seq.); and the Earthquake Hazards
21 Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).

22 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

24 (1) REGION.—The term “region” means—

1 (A) any geographic area consisting of all
2 or parts of 2 or more contiguous States, coun-
3 ties, municipalities, or other local governments
4 that have a combined population of at least
5 1,650,000 or have an area of not less than
6 20,000 square miles, and that, for purposes of
7 an application for a covered grant, is rep-
8 resented by 1 or more governments or govern-
9 mental agencies within such geographic area,
10 and that is established by law or by agreement
11 of 2 or more such governments or governmental
12 agencies in a mutual aid agreement; or

13 (B) any other combination of contiguous
14 local government units (including such a com-
15 bination established by law or agreement of two
16 or more governments or governmental agencies
17 in a mutual aid agreement) that is formally cer-
18 tified by the Secretary as a region for purposes
19 of this Act with the consent of—

20 (i) the State or States in which they
21 are located, including a multi-State entity
22 established by a compact between two or
23 more States; and

1 (ii) the incorporated municipalities,
2 counties, and parishes which they encom-
3 pass.

4 (2) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—The
5 term “emergency response providers” includes Fed-
6 eral, State, and local emergency public safety, law
7 enforcement, emergency response, emergency med-
8 ical (including hospital emergency facilities), and re-
9 lated personnel, agencies, and authorities.

10 (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “local
11 government” means—(A) a county, municipality,
12 city, town, township, local public authority, school
13 district, special district, intrastate district, council of
14 governments (regardless of whether the council of
15 governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corpora-
16 tion under State law), regional or interstate govern-
17 ment entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local
18 government; (B) an Indian tribe or authorized tribal
19 organization, or in Alaska a Native village or Alaska
20 Regional Native Corporation; and (C) a rural com-
21 munity, unincorporated town or village, or other
22 public entity.

23 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means any
24 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
25 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-

1 lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth
2 of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession
3 of the United States.

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